DANVILLE'S SHAME

The Judge of Her Chief Court Gives His Opinion of Political Methods There.

The "Coalition Rule" Circular Full of Misstatements and Falsehoods.

What It Costs a Man Not to Be a Democrat in Virginia.

Testimony of a Liberal Who Taught the Bourbons to Respect Him.

Until yesterday the testimony taken by the senate subcommittee which is investigating the Danville murders has been almost entirely concerning the occurrences of the afternoon of Nov. 3, and the story, continually repeated, with slight variations, of Noel's fight with Lawson, and of the line of white men firing at the unarmed negroes, grew rather monotonous. Yesterday some new ground was covered, and something of the character

of politics and politicians was revealed. J. D. Blackwell, judge of the corporation court of Danville, was the first witness ex-amined, and he remained on the stand until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. He was certainly the most intelligent witness in the case thus far, and, judging from his language and the character of his testimony, ovidently the best educated. He is a coalitionist, but some of his testimony was directly in favor of the democrats. He was plainly fair and unprojudiced, and his opinions are likely to prejudiced, and his orbitions are likely to have much weight. He saw the entire fight from the window of his law office, which is directly opposite the scene of the fight. He described the whole affair clearly. The undisputed points of the story are already well known. He was very deaf at that time, the result of taking large doses of quinine, and the only word he heard was the shout of "Murder!" which first drew his attention. He saw through the window a at that time, the result of taking large doses of quinine, and the only word he heard was the shout of "Murder!" which first drew his attention. He saw through the window a white man beating a negro with a stick. Two other white men (Tyler and Lea), with drawn pistols, stood by. A powerful negro crossed the street and attempted to take Lea's pistol from him. The two fell, and presently the negro immped up and ran away. He saw Lea take deliberate aim and fire at this negro. There was a rush of colored and white men from all quarters. The whites stood on the aidewalk, the negroes in the street. In each party several men were excitedly gesticulating. He saw a few of the whites in consultation, and soon after the whites formed in an orderly line. They drew pistols. Then the negroes turned to run. Possibly all of them had not turned when the first volley was fired. The volley was like that of a drilled body of men. The witness, who had been a confederate scidier, had never heard a more orderly discharge in battle Attenward the firms welles regular. had nover heard a more orderly discharge in battle. Afterward the firing was less regular. The witness saw Capt Graves stand on a street corner and fire his pistol three times in different directions. He could not see at what object he was aiming. He saw Blount rush into the street, turn around several times, and fire his pistel in the air. He acted like a man beside himself with excitement. That was the last incident of the riot which came under his notice.

The witness said that he had full authority

to issue warrants for the arrest of parties engaged in the affair, and gave as his reason for not issuing them that he did not think, as a matter of principle, that anything should be done until after election, and then the persons who were wounded and relatives of the killed should make complaint. No one made complaint, and then he thought it betmade complaint, and then he thought it better to let the whole affair be investigated and ventilated by a grand jury, which he drew according to law. One negro was on the jury, and withess thought he was a republican. The others, he supposed, were democrats. The grand jury sat for two days, and heard testimony. "The truth is," said the witness, "that I falled entirely to appreciate the condition of public affairs at that time. I thought that after the fight was over and reace was restored that complaints would be peace was restored that complaints would be made, but they were not."

Some of them are, but the great majority

ment to increase greatly.

"Are the statements in that circular true?"
asked Senator Shorman. At the request of Senator Sherman the wit-ness went through the circular, and told what statements were true and what faise. Figures given concerning consus, taxes, &c., he thought to be correct. Since 1869 there never had been a time when every office in Danvillo might not have been filled by negroes, if that race had so choson. The charge that the city was divided into wards at the application of the negroes, for the purpose of getting more offices, was false. Capt. Clark, whose name is signed to the circular, was the first mover in getting the city divided, so that he appears as charging the negro with the thing which he himself did. The witness never heard of any complaint made by the whites of anything done by the council chose a democrat for its president, and after he resigned statements were true and what false. Figures and irritate them. The council chose a dem-cerat for its president, and after he resigned offered the position to other democrats, who declined it; then Ralston was chosen. The council was composed of eight white men and four negroes. The four negro police officers were selected by this council. Two were regular policemen, one was city scav-enger, the other clerk of the market, with cortain volice nowers. The complaint that enger, the other clerk of the market, with certain police powers. The complaint that of the twenty-four stalls in the market a majority were rented to negroes to the exclusion of white men is absurd, because the stalls belonging to the city are rented at auction to the highest bidder. John W. Holland owns eleven stalls, and rents nine of them to negroes. Mr. Holland is a democrat, and his name is signed to the circular. There was never any complaint that the negroes occupied stalls until this circular was printed, occupied stails until this circular was printed, and there has been none since. There are now more negroes occupying stalls there than ever before. The charge that the market is filthy, and that the white men have been driven out, and the place converted into squaled negro quarters is absolutely false. The market is as clean as the ever was and as clean as markets in other cities. Witness thought that the charge was made to be circulated in southwestern Virginia, where the inhabitants are mostly white, and he thought it was intended to produce a receptificies, and would have that effect. The allegations against Col. have that effect. The allegations against Col. Raiston were false. He is an intelligent gentlemen, and there is nothing to be said against his character and integrity. The statement that the city was governed by federal officers and slaves, the witness characterized as a "political canard." There were but five federal officers in the city of 15,000 infive federal officers in the city of 15,000 in-habitants, and these five were not ruling the 15,000, except in the circular. There were but three federal officers in the council. Unless three men controlled nine it was impossible, as charged, that the federal officers made laws for the city. Witness believed one of the negroes in the council was a had man. He prosecuted him for seduction and thought he was guilty, and should have been sent to the penitentiary, but a white jury acquitted him. The witness also thought that the negro magistrate was a bad man. As that the negro magnetrate was a bad mad. As to the charges made concerning the police court, the witness had no personal knowledge of their truth or falsity. He had heard a number of people say, however, that the negro was the best magistrate of the lot, the other two being white men. The charge that two magistrates had been represent for cause and one of them. had been removed for cause and one of them had fied to escape indictment was true, and the witness himself was the judge who re-

city every year. They remain a few months while the factories give them work. There are less vagrants in Danville than in other cities of the same size. "Danville," said the witness, "is a thrifty, business city, what you can call without offense a 'yankee' city." Witness did not think that ladies and gentlemen were any more impeded in their travel on the streets of Danville than they are in crowded streets of other cities. The charge made in the circular is untrue. The negroes there are deferential to white people. The witness appointed two white democrats to fill the places of the two magistrates whom he removed, and they still hold the offices. No mention is made of that fact in the circular. Witness never heard heard of the plan, mentioned in the circular, to take a large negro settlement into the city of Danville. Witness was not aware that there was any "awful wystchedness and humiliation" caused by negro rule in Danville. The circular was never circulated in Danville. The witness charged the grand jury specially concerning the Danville riot. He told them to inquire carefully into the whole matter, to discover how many were wounded and killed, and for the sake of law and good order, to indict such persons as they found guilty. By the law of Virginia the action to discover how many were wounded and killed, and for the sake of law and good order, to indict such persons as they found guilty. By the law of Virginia the action of Noel, Taylor, and Lea amounted to a riot. The law on that point is the old English common law. There is great bitterness of feeling, said the witness, in Virginia on the part of the democrats against the coalitionists, and it extends each to personal relations. The witness himself had experienced it. Men who were formerly cordial to him were now treating him very coldly. This was not generally true, but only of a few men, and, as he said, "it wasn't worth talking about." The key note of the last campaign, the witness thought, was to excite race prejudice and to draw the color line. If Sims denounced the gentlemen, whom witness knew, as perjurers and liars he certainly did them an injustice, and, in the opinion of witness, the gentlemen so denounced would have been justified in giving Mr. Sims "a whaling." Witness never knew of any negroes being persecuted or estracised by their own race for voting the democratic ticket. The first intimation he had of anything of the sort was contained in the testimony of a colored woman before this committee. The witness did not think that either the United States courts or congress and any jurisdiction in this matter, although he admitted that he was not a constitutional lawyer.

Witness thought any man might have

yer.

tail as to the circular, the aim of Senator Vance seeming to be to make him admit the literal truth of certain statements, which were in effect misleading to people ignorant of Danville affairs, as were the people to whom the circular was addressed. Capt. W. P. Robinson, an intelligent white

man, agent for a Baltimore grano company and residing at Danville, testified concerning Col. Sims's speech. Sims held the Danville circular in his hand and said that it had not circular in his hand and said that it had not been circulated in Danville, and that it contained forty lies. He said it was directed to the valley and southwestern part of Virginia. He had got his copy from Washington, as none had ever been seen in Danville. He read the circular section by section and commented upon it. The witness then took the circular to refresh his memory, and told, in effect, what Col. Sims said of each section. Concerning each paragraph Senator Sherman asked the witness his own opinion, which agreed every time with the statement of Col. Sims and the testimony of Judge Blackwell just given. It apwith the statement of Col. Sims and the testi-mony of Judge Blackwell just given. It ap-peared that under readjuster rule half the stalls in the market were rented to colored and half to white men. The democratic came into power in November, and in January the stalls were relet, as usual, at public auction, with the result that three more negroes have stalls under democratic rule then under stalls under democratic rule than under readjuster control. Witness did not know of any complaint being made by the people of Danville of the acts of the coalition council, made, but they were not."

The witness was very sick for some time during the canvass, and could not, of his personal knowledge, tell about the excitement of the campaign. He knew that the circular, headed "Coalition Rule," caused the excitement any office at all, although they formed any effect at large majority of the population. Their papers declare that no negro shall be ap-pointed to any office. Concerning the insults to white ladies mentioned in the circular, the to white ladies mentioned in the circular, the witness said that it could not possibly be true, for the negro would be killed as soon as a white man could pull the pistol, which all of them carried. Any magistrate would have punished the offenders to the full extent of his power. The one negro magistrate was more severe than his brother white magistrates. The witness was a magistrate of Danwillon and soon of the power of the property of the p ville, and no complaint was made to him of insults by negroes offered to white ladies. "It's all a humbug," said the witness, "about negroes preventing white men from registering or voting. It could not be done." The negroes were quiet and submissive and more deferential than white people, although there are "bad niggers" among them who curse and fight among themselves. Witness traveled about the country considerably and talked with the tobacce raisers. They told him that Durham was paying more for tehim that Durham was paying more for to-bacco than Danville. He never heard of any refusal to sell their product in Danville account of negro rule there, as was charged in the circular.

"Was there any feeling of apprehension among the coalitionists of Danvillo about

"I was appointed a judge of election, and after the riot I declined to act." The witness, by that event, learned some-thing of the bitter ness of feeling among the democrats, and it was published in demo-cratic papers that leaders would be killed if democratis, and it was published in democratic papers that leaders would be killed if
any trouble arose, and he thought if he acted
as judge he might either be killed or compelled to kill somebody else. As evidence
of the bitterness of political feeling in Danville, the witness gave a description of an
assault made up a him by two white men
becouse he voted for negro candidates
for the council. He was propared
for them, and they made nothing out of it.
He was again assaulted by a white man, who
called him a dog because he was a readjuster.
He told his assailant when the insult was
given that he would not strike him because
he was a past master Mason. When witness
was struck, however, he "went in pretty
lively," and knocked the democrat down
three times. Then the policomen interfored
to save the democrat from further injury.
The witness was not in Danville on the day
of the riot, but arrived there that night. He
saw the armed men patrolling the town, and
it seemed to him the ment goals had the condisaw the armed men patrolling the town, and it seemed to him the most foolish thing that could be done, for the negroes were pletely broken in spirit and had no notion of injuring any one.

"Have you been insulted since then on ac-count of your political opinions" asked Sou-ator Sherman.

"Well, they're right bitter against mo, but they're right particular about in insulting," was the reply. He had been twice shot at since the riot. One shot he was not perfectly sure was meant for him, but in the other case he saw the man take sim and fire. He pur-sued that man with his pistoi drawn. He heard a man say since the election that he wished every readjuster in Danville had been killed.

killed.

"Was that meant to insult you?"

"I think not. The man know better. That kind of talk was common enough. Stephen K. Adams, a deacon of the church, said that Sims ought to be mobbed and killed."

Sims in his speech had said several times that the signers of the circular were scounded and like.

had been removed for cause and one of them had fled to escape indictment was true, and the witness himself was the judge who removed them. These two magistrates were white men, but there was nothing in the circular to show that fact. The man who ran away to escape indictment for embegglement was elected by white democrats. The charge that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever red it before they that some of them ever red it before they that some of them ever red it before they that some of them ever red it before they that some of them ever red it before they that some of them ever red it before they that some of them ever red it before they they signed it. They wouldn't swear to any such thing now. They just considered it a campaign document, and that's all there was of it." The democrats made violent speeches, but they did not take men by name and call the such that some upground them are the such that some income of them is an accordance of the signers are men whom I have known and liked all my life. I don't believe that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever red it to be several and white carriages at reasonable to the signers are men whom I have known and liked all my life. I don't believe that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it before they that some of them ever read it is to be a such that the ever that some of them ever read it is to be a such that the ever that the ever that t drels and liars.

however, as if the coalitionists were in favor however, as if the coalitionists were in favor of miscogenation and of putting negroes in office all over the state, although the coalitionists did not intend any such thing. Sims was the only man who was immederate on the coalition side. Otherwise the democrate were ten times as bitter as the coalitionists. Witness thought that the rule of the coalitionists when in power in Danville was surviver to that of the denocrate. the rule of the coalitionists when in power in Danville was superior to that of the democrats who formerly ruled. Witness did not vote—not because he was afraid, but because he knew there was great danger that he would get into a difficulty. His wife and his friends urged him not to vote. He also knew that a great many colored people had left town and could not get back to vote, and others were afraid to vote, and he thought his vote could do no good. He thought that preparations made to preserve poace on election day were not assuring, because many men who were said to have done the shooting on Saturday were on the police force. No confidence was felt in the Richmond militia, because they were understood to be mostly democrats.

because they were understood to be mostly democrats.

"You used to be a democrat at one time?" said Senator Vance.

"I have always been a democrat."

"Are you a democrat flow?"

"Not since the riot." Before that I always said I was a democrat; that I should vote for Col. Cabell for congress and for a democratic president, but that didn't make any difference. They were down on me because I would not join with them against the readjusters." justers."

justers."

"What is your political party now?"

"I don't exactly know. I'm waiting to see the result of the investigation, and to see what the democratic party does about the tariff. I'm a protectionist."

The witness described a "carpet-bagger" as a man from the north who came south and opposed the democratic party. Speaking for Danville, he did not think that a white republican could do business there very comfortably.

"Did you think that Col. Sims's speech was "Did you think that Col. Sima's speech was calculated to excite the whites?"

"I thought the signers of the circular would some of them attack Sims. I thought it would excite them. Sims said in the speech that he held himself personally responsible for what he said. All he asked was for them not to shoot him in the back."

The committee adjourned the investigation to 10 colock on Monday.

to 10 o'clock on Monday. Patent Office Appointments. The special board of examiners appointed under the civil service commission to conduct special and technical examination for ap-pointment in the patent office will begin its work on the first of June.

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on Friday, Feb. 22, at 8 s. m. The subscription for the season will be \$13,50 for the six performances. The subscription sale will close on Monday at 4 p. m., and the sale for single nights will open on Tuesday Feb. 26. Price for reserved seats, single performances, \$2.50, \$2. \$1.50,\$1, and 73 cents, according to location. Ad-mission, 50 cents and \$1.

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